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Diana T Fritz 03/29/2007 02:27:16 PM From DB/Inbox: Diana T Fritz

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ACTION: DCM
INFO: USLO P/M POL ECON DAO AMB

DISSEMINATION: DCM
CHARGE: PROG

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INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
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SIPDIS

NEA/ARP AND NEA/RA (MONOSSON, LAWSON)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/26/2017
TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PREL](#) [AE](#)
SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE MINISTERIAL AND SUMMIT IN RIYADH -- UAE
REF: SECSTATE 36209

Classified By: DCM Martin Quinn, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) On March 25 DCM discussed reftel points with MFA Acting U/S Tariq Al Haidan. On Iraq, Al Haidan predicted the Arab League meeting in Riyadh would issue a communique based on the following four principles:

- (1) Unity of Iraq for all Iraqis;
- (2) Dissolution of all Iraqi militias including Jeish Al Mahdi and Badr forces;
- (3) Equal distribution of the country's oil wealth; and
- (4) Amendment of the Constitution to empower all Iraqis.

The Acting U/S said the Arab League would support our "Baghdad strategy" on this basis.

¶2. (C) On Iraqi debt relief, Al Haidan stated that the GCC would not move on the matter as long as PM Al Maliki remains in power. "We don't want to reward him," he said, "and besides he will be gone in eight months." Al Maliki's primary legacy or claim to fame, according to the Acting U/S, will be that "he killed Saddam, and no one wants to give him any more credit than that." Reflecting a familiar critique in the UAE of the Iraqi PM, Al Haidan commented that he could understand U.S. support for him as Iraq's leader "only if there was no other choice."

¶3. (C) On Lebanon, Al Haidan said the Riyadh Summit would come up with a "good statement" that would roll over any Syrian objections.

¶4. (C) On Sudan, Al Haidan said the UAE definitely favors the UN Heavy Support Package and the AU/UN hybrid force.

¶5. (C) On Somalia, Al Haidan affirmed that the UAE supports the AU Mission and will continue its donations. The situation in Somalia, he said, is becoming more complicated and that efforts should be made to absorb "the moderates" from the ex-Council of Islamic Courts rather than to exclude them completely since they still have strength and can potentially bother the government in Mogadishu like the resurgent Taliban are undermining the Karzai government in Afghanistan.
SISON